

What is claimed is:

1. A method for preparing an article comprising viable cells on an insoluble support comprising:

- See AI*
- a) providing an enclosure that is permeable to solutes;
  - b) introducing into the enclosure an insoluble support material and sealing the enclosure; and
  - c) introducing viable cells into the enclosure whereby the cells attach to the insoluble support material.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the cells are injected into the enclosure.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the enclosure comprises a mesh material and the injection is performed through the mesh.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the enclosure comprises a septum and the injection is performed through the septum.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising freezing the enclosure containing the viable cells.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising thawing the enclosure containing the viable cells and maintaining the thawed enclosure in a tissue culture medium.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising testing the viability of the cells by staining the cells with a dye that fluoresces upon binding of calcium and with a dye that fluoresces upon intercalation into DNA, then measuring the ratio of fluorescence of the calcium staining dye to the fluorescence of the DNA intercalating dye.

8. A method for preparing an article comprising viable cells on an insoluble support comprising:

- a) providing an enclosure that is permeable to solutes but is impermeable to cells;
- b) introducing into the enclosure an insoluble support material and then sealing the enclosure in a biocompatible manner;
- c) introducing viable cells into the sealed enclosure by injection.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising testing the viability of the cells by sampling the cells within the enclosure and staining the cells with a dye that fluoresces upon binding of calcium and with a dye that fluoresces upon intercalation into DNA, then measuring the ratio of fluorescence of the calcium staining dye to the fluorescence of the DNA intercalating dye.

10. A method for preparing an article comprising viable cells on an insoluble support comprising:

- a) providing an enclosure that is permeable to solutes and to cells;
- b) introducing into the enclosure an insoluble support material having attached thereto a plurality of viable cells;
- c) immersing the enclosure containing the support material into a culture of viable cells, whereby the cells migrate into the enclosure and attach to the support material.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising removing the enclosure from the culture and freezing the enclosure.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the support material is treated with a hydroxide solution prior to introducing the support material into the enclosure.

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